

happy to have Saddam Hussein removed.

I did not, and I still do not, believe that removing a foreign dictator is sufficient reason for the United States to invade another country. If it were, we would be invading dozens of countries. But the fact is that removal of Saddam Hussein was a gain for the Iraqi people and the United States for a short time had their gratitude. Now, that we have moved from being liberators to occupiers, that gratitude is fast drying up.

Our troops are not safe. Our leaders have gone to such lengths to identify nongovernmental groups like the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders that they are not safe either, and they are leaving. The status quo is not sustainable. We need to plan what will replace the status quo.

What I fear is that in the absence of a plan, we will stumble down the path with a paper Constitution in December and an improvised election which will signal our withdrawal, and will leave Iraq in chaos because we did not bring the United Nations in to set things up.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, we need a plan. We need to know what the benchmarks are, what the goals are, what the test is about when we will leave. I think that the President's case for war was shoddy. I think the planning for the post-war period was shoddy or perhaps nonexistent. With body bags arriving in Dover virtually every day, we cannot afford a shoddy, years-long occupation. Americans are targeted in Iraq in a way that United Nations blue helmets would not be, in a way that a force from countries in the region would not be, in a way that we cannot sustain.

We have to plan to get out, sooner rather than later. It is the only chance for Iraq to have a fresh start, and it is the only chance for a lot of young Americans to come back alive. To fail to do this, to lay out the plan, what we are going to do and how we are going to get out so that the whole world can see, is the only hope of getting the Iraqis to stop killing our people. The failure to do that, the stonewalling by our President and taking the money we gave him, \$87 billion more to keep on doing what he is doing, we are in for a long siege.

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PARENTS WHO PROTESTED WAR MOURN DEATH  
OF SOLDIER SON  
MAN WAS BECOMING SKEPTICAL OF U.S.  
SITUATION IN IRAQ

KENT.—As a boy, Benjamin Colgan marched with his parents in peace protests. Joseph and Pat Colgan, 62 and 60, respectively, whose activism dates from the Vietnam War, were surprised when their son enlisted in the Army. But they continued to support him, even as they opposed the war in Iraq.

On Monday, their worst fears came true. Colgan, 30, a second lieutenant, the father of two young daughters with a third child due next month, died Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded as he responded to a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Baghdad, the Defense Department said.

A U.S. flag hung outside the family's home Monday. Funeral arrangements were pending.

Word came with a knock on the door at the Colgans' home.

"I saw the cross on his lapel pin and I said, 'No, not my son! Not my son!'" his mother said.

"There will be many people experiencing the same thing," she added. "This war, it shouldn't be."

Benjamin Colgan was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

His parents were concerned when he gave a dim appraisal of Baghdad in an e-mail Friday.

"What raised a red flag was when he said, 'It's getting real old and getting real crazy,'" his father said.

As a young child, he had joined his parents on marches to protest nuclear weapons at Naval Submarine Base Bangor. Then, to pay for college, he enlisted in the Army after graduation from Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines in 1991.

"That was hard, but you support your children," his mother said.

She and her husband joined protest marches again against the war in Iraq this year.

They tied a yellow ribbon around the maple in their front yard, a tree they had planted when Benjamin Colgan was born. On Monday, they replaced it with a black ribbon.

Benjamin Colgan initially planned to become a medic, but joined the Special Forces and then Delta Force, the military's most elite and secretive unit.

He left to attend officer candidate school, was assigned to the 1st Armored Division in Germany after graduation, and hoped to return to Delta Force after earning his captain's bars, his father said.

His mother says his death has only strengthened her position against the war.

"People keep asking, 'Are the Iraqis better off?'" she said. "What we have to start asking is, 'Are we better off?' And we're not. We're losing our children."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POMEROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### COMMEMORATING VETERANS' DAY 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise with fellow Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other Members of Congress to salute this Nation's veterans in commemoration of Veterans' Day next Tuesday. Mr. Speaker, it is a very special day for so many of our men and women who have given their blood, their sweat, and their tears to defend the lives that we live in this country. Many of them have given their lives standing up for what America is all about.

And so it gives me great honor to yield 20 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the great State of Missouri and the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman IKE SKELTON, for his remarks.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my friend and colleague from Maryland for the honor of addressing the House at this moment. I much appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, recent press reports have indicated that the administration is planning to begin the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in the spring of 2004. Based on recent visits to my congressional district in Missouri, I believe such a move would be very politically popular. Overwhelmingly, the